

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06
SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PRS-01 PA-01
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R 040930Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0223

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 04275

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, ID, EFIN

SUBJECT: PERTAMINA'S LEASED TANKERS

REF : JAKARTA 1057

1. GOI MINISTERS SUMARLIN AND RADIUS HELD PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 28 TO DISCUSS INDONESIAN POSITION ON PERTAMINA'S LEASED TANKERS. ONLY FOREIGN PRESS WERE INVITED INCLUDING FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, AP, ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL, PETROLEUM NEWS, AND REUTERS. EVENT WAS STAGE MANAGED BY GOI'S PR FIRM, HILL AND KNOWLTON.

2. LITTLE NEW INFORMATION EMERGED. MINISTERS SAID GOI HAS "OPEN MIND" ON POSSIBLE OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT BUT STRESSED THEY WOULD NOT BE PRESSURED INTO COMING TO BARGAINING TABLE. BOTH CONFIRMED THT RAPPAPORT'S COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT (AS REPORTED REFTEL) HAS BEEN SHELVED FOR PRESENT TIME. MINISTERS ARE IRKED BY RECENT ROUND OF RAPPAPORT ATTACHMENT ACTIONS IN EUROPE, INCLUDING SUIT AGAINST REMNANTS OF EQUIPMMENT ORDERED FOR KALIMANTAN FERTILIZER (EX-FLOATING) PROJECT. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS SUMARLIN PARTICULARLY UPSET BY RAPPAPROT SUIT SEEKING ATTACH SOME GERMAN POWER EQUIPMENT DESTINED FOR
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KRAKATAU STEEL PROJECT.

3. FOLLOWING PRESS CONFERENCE, ONE JOURNALIST TELEPHONED RAPPAPORT IN GENEVA AND PLAYED BACK REMARKS OF RADIUS AND SUMARLIN. RAPPAPORT RESPONDED BY CALLING TWO MINISTERS "BIGGEST BLOODY LIARS I EVER MET IN MY LIFE." RAPPAPORT ALSO CONFIRMED BANGKOK GOLF MATCH

WITH IBNU AND ADMITTED HE WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM CREDITORS, ESPECAILLY SWEDISH NATIONAL BANK.

4. MEANWHILE, GOI HAS PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED QUESTIIONING OF IBNU AND OTHER EX-PERTAMINA OFFICIALS. STATE SECRETARY SUDHARMONO SAID MARCH 28 THAT TEAM OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALI SAID, GENERAL BENNY MURDANI, AND ISMAIL SALEH CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION. IBNU NO LONGER CONFINED TO QUARTERS AND HAS BEEN SEEN ON JAKARTA GOLF COURSES. HE IS NOT FREE, HOWEVER, TO LEAVE COUNTRY. GOI APPARENTLY RELAXED TERMS OF IBNU'S HOUSE ARREST TO AVOID CHARGES FROM RAPPAPORT THAT GOVERNMENT WAS EXTRACTING ANOTHER "BANANA REPUBLIC CONFESSION" FROM IBNU UNDER FORCED DETENTION.
RIVES

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Message Attributes

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